MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN ;
282. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 500 for travelling allowance by Rs. 10.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :
283. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,012 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN :
284. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,012 for Customs by Rs. 10.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN :
285. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,012 for Customs by Rs. 100.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI :
286. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 83,772 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI :
287. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 88,772 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI :
288. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 88,772 for Customs by Rs. 10.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The question is that a sum of Rs. 6,30,625 *minus* Re. 1 be sanctioned under Demand VI—Excise Department.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VII—FOREST DEPARTMENT.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 8,39,096 under Demand VII—Forest.

Motions 289 and 290.

The following motions were not moved :

MR TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN :
289. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,92,000 for Royal trees by Rs. 100

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :
290. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,05,370 for timber and other produce removed from forests by Government agency by Re. 1

Motion 291.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): ഫാറസ്റ്റ് പരിഷ്കരണത്തിനായി ചേത്തിട്ടുള്ള 38,900-രൂപായിൽ നിന്നും 1000-രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള എന്റെ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഭരണത്തിൽ മാത്രം കൺസർവേറർ ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിച്ചാൽ പോരാ. കുടിപാർപ്പിനു സ്ഥലമില്ലാത്ത ജനതതിക്കു താമസിക്കുന്നതിനും മറ്റു കൃഷിക്കുമായി ഫാറസ്റ്റിൽനിന്നും സ്ഥലം ഒഴിച്ചു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഇവിടെ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കാൻ വേണ്ടിയാണ് ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്.

സാധാരണയായി ജനങ്ങൾ കുടിപാർപ്പിനു സ്ഥലം ആവശ്യപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ ഭൂമിയില്ലെന്നാണ് പറഞ്ഞു വരുന്നത്.

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MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): This appears to be a *specific* cut. So the question of policy cannot be discussed.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: മി. ജോസഫ്, ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറി ലേക്കനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള നവ,ൻ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ യിൽനിന്നും ക,൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നാണ് നിങ്ങളുടെ മോഷൻ. ഇങ്ങനെ ക,൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ കുറച്ചാലും നവ,ൻ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ കൊണ്ടു നടത്തേണ്ട കാര്യം സാധിക്കാവുന്നതാണ് എന്നുള്ളതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുമാത്രമേ നിങ്ങൾക്കു ഈ മോഷനിൽ പറയാൻ പാടൊള്ളൂ. അല്ലാതെ ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ പൊതു നയത്തെപ്പറ്റി പ്രതിപാദിക്കാൻ ഈ മോഷനിൽ നിങ്ങൾക്കവകാശമില്ല.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ കൃഷിക്കും മറ്റും ഭൂമി കൊടുക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു ഇപ്പോൾ അവർക്കു അതു ജോലിയില്ല. അതിനാൽ ഈ ക,൦ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ കുറച്ചാലും അവരുടെ ജോലി നടക്കും.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുമാത്രം പറഞ്ഞു കൊള്ളുക. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറനയത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു താഴെ ടോക്കൻമോഷൻ വന്നുണ്ടു്. അതിൽ സംസാരിക്കാം.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): ഇന്നു വർദ്ധിച്ചു വരുന്ന ജനത്തിനു കുടിപാർപ്പിനു അശേഷം സ്ഥലമില്ലാതിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഫാറസ്റ്റിൽ ധാരാളം സ്ഥലം ഉപയോഗമില്ലാതെ ഇട്ടിരിക്കയാണു്. അതു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു താമസിക്കാൻ കൊടുക്കണം.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: അതു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറനയത്തെ സംബന്ധിക്കുന്ന കാര്യമാണു്. ആ സംഗതി ഈ മോഷനിൽ ഡിസ്കസ്സ് ചെയ്യാൻ പാടില്ല.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): എന്തായാലും ഫാറസ്റ്റിൽനിന്നും ഭൂമി അധികൃതർക്കു പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറും കൺസർവേറ്ററും പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു മാത്രമേ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നുള്ളൂ.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): As far as the member's representation is concerned I have my fullest sympathy. Unfortunately, there is a ruling of Government according to which lands once disafforested are to be transferred to the Revenue Department.

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

The registry is to be effected by them. I am always inclined to help the member in any way he wants. But I do not know the intention of the member by bringing such a motion under the Forest Department.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഈ കാര്യം കൺസർവേറേറാട് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടപക്ഷം ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതായ ഭൂമി കൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ മെമ്പർക്കു അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നതിൽ വിരോധമുണ്ടോ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: അങ്ങിനെ കച്ചീട്ട് എഴുതിവയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): യാതൊരു വിരോധവുമില്ല.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Which is the department that is concerned with disafforestation?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Conservator was telling us, that his Department, after disafforesting lands, will hand them over to the Revenue Department. Registry is to be effected only by the Revenue Department, and he did not see the reason why Mr. John Joseph has brought such a motion now to discuss the need for disafforesting and assigning forest lands to the depressed classes on concessional terms, swampy areas within reserved forests and reserved lands on the sides of public roads.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): ഡിസ്സ അഫാറസ്റ്റ് ചെയ്തിടണമെന്നാണോ പറയുന്നത്?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: ഡിസ്സഅഫാറസ്റ്റ് ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ അധീകൃതർക്കു പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ് കൺസർവേറേറാടെ ഉദ്ദേശം. ഡിസ്സഅഫാറസ്റ്റ് ചെയ്ത ഭൂമികൾ റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ കൺസർവേറർ വിചാരിച്ചാൽ ഒന്നും ചെയ്യാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നാണ് അദ്ദേഹം പറയുന്നത്.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know whether disafforestation is not the work of the Forest Department?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: How does that question arise?

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*) ലാൻഡ് റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണരോടു ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടാൽ ഡിസ്സഅഫാറസ്റ്റ് ചെയ്ത സ്ഥലം ഇല്ലെന്നാണ് പറയുന്നതു്. അതിനാൽ കൺസർവേറരുടെ സഹായംകൂടി ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽ മാത്രമേ ഭൂമി കിട്ടുകയുള്ളൂ.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : ഡിസ്സ്അഫാറസ്റ്റ് ചെയ്തിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ലാൻഡു റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണർ അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഭൂമി ഇല്ലെന്നു പറയുമോ? ഒരിക്കലും പറയുകയില്ല.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*) : അധഃകൃതസമുദായത്തിനു ഭൂമി കൊടുക്കാതെ മറ്റുള്ളവർക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതു അനീതിയാണ്.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : The motion of Mr. John Joseph urges the need for disafforesting and assigning to the depressed classes on concessional terms swampy areas within reserved forests and the reserved lands on the sides of public roads. So, about the first part, the Conservator can answer the member.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You had my ruling that discussion of the policy of the department could not be brought under this motion. The motion of Mr. Joseph is a specific cut for organisation, improvement and extension of forests. The question of policy can be usefully discussed later on when token motions come up. Do you press your motion, Mr. John Joseph ?

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*) : ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു കൂടി പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കാമെന്നും, അതിലേക്കു കൺസർവേറർക്കൂടി സഹായിക്കാമെന്നും ഉള്ളുപക്ഷം —

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : "പക്ഷം' എന്നൊന്നും പറയണ്ടാ. നിങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇതു വോട്ടിനിടണമെന്നു ആഗ്രഹമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുക.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*) : ഞാൻ ഉപക്ഷേപം പിൻവലിക്കുന്നതിനു അനുവാദം ചോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 292 to 294.

The following motions were not moved :

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN :

292. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 38,900 for organisation, improvement and extension of forests by Rs. 5.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

293. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowance by Rs. 800.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN :

294. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowance by Rs. 5

Motion 295.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Sir, I move.

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 23,208 for direction by Rs. 100

Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Conservator certain difficulties which the people of the Quilon Divisional Forest Office suffer The subordinates of that office suffer owing to the presence of the

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present Divisional Forest Officer, Mr. Oomman. The Travelling work of the Divisional Forest Officer has been admitted to be as follows in the Administration Report of the department on page 58.

> "The percentage secured in travelling by Mr. M. O. Oommen was only 49·9 and the lowest percentage was that secured by Mr. K S. Narayana Iyengar being only 47·4.
>
> "It is also the opinion of the conservator that the amount of touring done by Messrs. Narayana Iyengar and Oommen was quite unsatisfactory and below the mark and it is expected that they will strive their utmost and show better results next year spending more days on out-door work and field inspection."

My complaint is so urgent because this gentleman has been in the Quilon Division for more than 6 years.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You referred to two names. To whom do you refer now?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I pointed out the general criticism about these two officers. My particular statement refers only to the present Divisional Forest Officer of Quilon, Mr. Oommen.

The auction of timber in the Punalur and Tenmalai Depots are to be conducted by the Divisional Forest Officer of the Quilon Division. There are specific complaints brought against this officer, and I shall place them for the notice of the Conservator. For the Punalur Depot, the auction work is being done by the Divisional Forest Officer of Konni, and for the Tenmalai Depot the auction is conducted by the Divisional Forest Officer of the Shencotta Division. Again, there are lots of complaints about the auction of timber, in various other depots also. It is alleged that the length and breadth of timber is reduced in the stock and the price of timber is lessened and sold. If the timber has any defect, that has to be pointed out before it is sold. That is the way how people generally do when timber is auctioned. To cut down the length and breadth of timber from the stock and sell at lower prices, that seems to be the dominant complaint against this officer. Another complaint against this gentleman is that he is engaged in evangelical work to a very great extent.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I suppose it is not during office hours?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I think even during office hours he is engaged in that. All this complaint is from his subordinates, that is, from peons and the subordinate staff under him, who are given instructions. In Christian prayer, they are compelled in a way—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Has this come from Christian subordinates?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): No, from Hindu subordinates.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Does the member suggest that the insufficiency of travelling work referred to in the Administration Report is partly due to the evangelical work?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Partly, it must be due to this.

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Partly it is seen that, he has an estate of his own somewhere in the Quilon Division, and all his Travelling is done to that place. That is the information I have got. Even if he does not do any work it does not matter. But it is a very serious matter to infringe on the rights of men or their religious beliefs. At first I did not believe that. When I happened to see his car, I saw something written on the side of it to the effect that "Jesus alone saves." Some other gentleman may think that some other person will save. But this is an indirect suggestion that only Jesus saves.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : These are matters of conviction.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : But it is an affront when it is exhibited publicly.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : An officer of the Public Service cannot be condemned because he is trying to advertise principles of a particula religion. If he forces it on his subordinates, then, I can understand your coming here and making a complaint against that officer.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I only point out this fact as an evidence of the zeal exhibited by the Divisional Officer and what he could possibly do when religion comes. There is the possibility of his trying to induce or coerce his subordinates to certain modes of belief and worship. If that is a fact, certainly that should be enquired into. In a way, this will lead to inefficiency in touring work. That has been admitted by the Conservator himself.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*) : സബ്ഓർഡിനേറ്റ്സിന് ആക്കെങ്കിലും പരാതിയുള്ളതായിട്ട് അറിയാമോ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : അറിയാം. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇതിവിടെ പറയുന്നത്.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : Is it suggested by the member that the Conservator can put pressure upon his Assistant to remove that advertisement from his car?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : He may do that if he likes. I am not much concerned with the advertisement and that does not worry anybody. I brought it only as an evidence of the zeal displayed by him.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : There is the possibility of good actions being resented. From the way in which you put that understanding can be given to that passage.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I have got specific complaints from his subordinates that they have even been punished. It seems, they are being bored by his preaching of religion. Even I was a victim to that, though he never tried to coerce me. Temperamently, he is like that. Naturally, to his subordinates, his preaching may be a command.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Has he been successful in his attempt?

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): He is very assiduous in his work. That is all I know. He is mainly responsible for the attempted construction of a church near Thevally. He was doing great propaganda with regard to the building of a church there.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That does not relate definitely to the administration of the Forest department.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): It relates in this way. All his time has been frittered away by these activities. So, I say, no proper touring is being done by him and no proper sales are effected in the depots.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): മറേതെങ്കിലും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ തങ്ങളുടെ ഉദ്യോഗാധികാരം ചെലുത്തി മതപരിവർത്തനത്തിനായതിനിക്കുന്നതായിട്ടറിയാമൊ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): ഞാൻ അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. അങ്ങിനെ വല്ലവരും ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ പറഞ്ഞുതന്നാൽകൊള്ളാം.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): അതു പിന്നീടുപറയാം.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I would request the Conservator under these circumstances to see that he is transferred from the Quilon Division?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How can that improve matters ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): The subordinates of the Quilon Divisional Forest Office were suffering for the last so many years. Let another part of the country get the benefit of his propaganda.

If that is not possible, he may be put in the Office of the Conservator of Forests. He is a man, I am told, suffering form asthma. That might also have contributed to the want of touring work.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): കൊല്ലത്തെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ ജനസംഖ്യയുള്ളതു തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തല്ലേ. അതുകൊണ്ടു അദ്ദേഹത്തിൽനിന്നുമുള്ള ഗുണം അനുഭവിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ജനങ്ങളും കൂടുകയില്ലേ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): ജനസംഖ്യ കൂടുതലുണ്ടെങ്കിലും നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിൽ സാധിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ഇവിടെ അതു എളുപ്പമായി സാധിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): കൊല്ലം ഒരു നാട്ടിൻപുറമാണോ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): കൊല്ലത്തു നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളും ധാരാളമുണ്ട്. അവിടെയൊക്കെ ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനു പോകേണ്ടതാ

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യിട്ടുണ്ട്. തിരുവനന്തപുരത്താക്കിയാൽ ആഫീസ്ജോലി മാത്രമേ കാണുകയൊള്ളൂ.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I have an identical motion, and so, in speaking in support of the motion, I believe I will get the full time allotted to the mover.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Under what Standing Order?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): It was observed even the other day that these are all identical motions.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Indulgence is something different from claiming a right. If you proceed on right lines and if your criticism is useful I shall allow you to go on.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): My complaint is that the administration of the department is being carried on in a careless way. For instance, the Conservator has mentioned in the budget an amount of Rs. 2,069 due under salaries to the Personal Assistant—

My information is that the present incumbent of that place is newly appointed, and, as such, would take at least one year to earn his first increment of ten rupees. In the case of an officer whose salary is Rs. 150 per mensem and who is to get an increment of Rs. ten per annum, the amount that would be required for one year would come to only Rs. 1,920 as against Rs. 2,069 as put down in the budget. An Explanation is due from the Conservator as to why this mistake, if it is a mistake, has been allowed to creep in.

Then, for the payment of arrears of *kudivila*, the Conservator wants 18 temporary clerks. It will be seen that he has already two clerks in his office on Rs. 25 and four or five clerks in the Divisional offices getting an aggregate monthly salary of Rs. 150. In spite of that, the Conservator now wants the staff to be strengthened in number, and also the salary of the clerks is to be increased. For instance, he wants one clerk on Rs. 50 in his office for doing this *kudivila* work. I fail to see, Sir, why he has asked for such a super-clerk on Rs. 50 per mensem for this item of work which was being attended to by clerks who got only lower salaries. If it is for the work of supervision or checking or verificaion, I may point out that the Conservator has a Personal Assistant on Rs. 150, a Head Clerk on Rs. 100 and a Head Accountant on Rs. 100, and also two or three clerks on Rs. 70. So, my submission is that the Conservator is not at all justified in demanding additional staff and also additional amount of money. Further, it could be seen from the Administration Report of his Department that, with the existing staff, he has been able to pay off in 1105 Rs. 73,639. For the coming year he proposes to pay off about Rs. 1 lakh under this item, and a provision has accordingly been made in the budget. It is not known whether he would be able to pay off the whole amount or whether he would leave the major portion of it unpaid as he has

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been doing in the past. Any way, my submission is, that, even assuming that he is going to pay off the whole of the amount that has been provided in the budget, two additional hands on Rs. 20 alone would be necessary.

Again, there is another provision for Foresters on Rs. 20.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are you raising these points?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I submit, Sir, that these points relate to the administration of the Forest Department.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your last suggestion, namely that the Conservator need have only two additional clerks, I think, comes under motion No. 296.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): We are now at motion 295.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Quite so Mr. Krishna Pillai, I am not prepared to rule you out of order because you refer to these points under this motion. But, I would suggest to you that it would be better if all these things are discussed under motions 298, 299, 300, 301, 302 and 303.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): But there is no knowing as to the time that motion No. 297 may take up.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Pillai, you should not misunderstand me. I do not suggest that you are out of order. But I would suggest that it would be better for you to say, what you have to say by way of cirticising the policy of the department, when motions 298 to 303 are taken up for discussion. They are all identical motions and will be discussed together.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): My difficulty is whether even under the present motion I am not entitled to discuss the administration of the department in the way in which I am now doing.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have been repeatedly telling you, Mr. Krishna Pillai, that you are perfectly in order. I am only suggesting to you that it would be better for you to wait till we take up motion No. 298 and the other identical token motions, and then raise your points against the administration of the department, and that, just now, you had better confine yourself to the specific complaint raised by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai. I assure you, you will have another opportunity in connection with the general token motion.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakkara* cum *Kunnattur*): But, having come so far.....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Then, I shall allow you your five minutes. My difficulty is that, if the general policy of the administration department is now raised and discussed, I would have to rule the discussion of

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the same question as being out of order if it is raised in connection with motions 298 to 303. As a matter of fact, they are the motions that are intended for the discussion of the general policy of the department.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I would just wind up my criticism under this particular head by stating that the Conservator has not carefully framed his budget and that his demand for additional hands and for additional allotments shows that he has also not been economical. With these words I support the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I support Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's motion. In so doing, my attempt is only to bring to the notice of this House certain irregularities that prejudicially affect the people of Quilon. There are latches on the part of the Divisional Forest Officer there. That, I believe, is due to the lack of control and supervision on the part of the Conservator of Forests.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I wish you confine yourself to the particular complaint made by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai so that we may dispose of the motion quickly.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): The lack of supervision on the part of the Conservator of Forests over the actions of his subordinates has been so enormous that the sale of timber appears to have been affected prejudicially. To make my position clear, I would submit that some contractors, to the exclusion of others, are being favoured by some of the officers of the department.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is a serious allegation.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, the timber, that is worked down from the forest coups and stocked on platforms in depots, is being sold according to the discretion of the Divisional Forest Officer. He goes, chooses and sells whichever lot he likes. In making such choice it would appear that the choice miraculously falls always on the timber worked down by one particular contractor, so much so that one contractor alone gets all his timber sold immediately after they are brought to the depots. He alone gets his money immediately and none of the other contractors get the timber, that they have worked down, sold by the officer. Even if they wait for months the timber worked down by the other contractors, it would appear, are not taken up for sale at all.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do you suggest, Mr. Krishna Pillai, that payment to the contractors depends upon the sale of the timber?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): It does, especially under the coupe contract system. Sir, I do not know the inner working of the department. I think the contractor works down the timber from the forests, brings it down and stocks it in the depots. He is paid only after his timber is sold. Therefore, unless the Divisional Forest Officer comes and sells his timber, there is no chance of his

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getting the money that is his due. Therefore, preference shown to one particular contractor in the sale of timber prejudicially affects the other contractors.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): Is the member aware that the bidders at these auctions ask for particular lots to be sold first?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): My point is that it ought not to be left to the choice of the bidders.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do you want to deny the public the privilege of getting the timber that they want?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Certainly, they ought not to be allowed to suggest which lots should be sold first. Even in the case of timber which is accepted to be bad, not of good quality, it should not be left to the bidders, to the purchasers to stand in the way of such bad timber being sold in its turn. Each contractor must be allowed to get, in his turn, the worth of the timber that he has worked down.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): My question was whether bidders did not generally make requests for particular lots to be sold first in preference to others.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Speaking from my own experience, Sir, when I wanted to purchase a particular lot of timber, I had to wait from about 7 o' clock in the morning till about 10. Since it is a matter left to the discretion of the Divisional Forest Officer, you have to wait till he chooses, for sale, the particular lot you want.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): May I know whether the member really made a request?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): It should not be understood that I am now making a complaint about my having been forced to wait.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Abraham is asking you a question. Hear him, and then answer him or refuse to answer. I think, in fairness, Mr. Krishna Pillai, you are bound to hear him.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): Did my friend make a request to the Divisional Forest Officer to sell the particular log that he wanted?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): That is exactly what I was about to say. I have absolutely no personal complaint about my waiting; I did not want to make any request to the Divisional Forest Officer for any favour. It is not in my nature to do it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Do not the Divisional Forest Officers take charge of these logs as soon as they are landed at the depots?

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MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): That is not the practice in regard to sawn timber. The contractor has no property in it. He has invested some labour on it and, for the value of that, he has a lien on it. The value of the contractor's labour is paid to him only after the timber is sold.

As I was submitting, Sir, as the sale of timber is left to the discretion of the Divisional Forest Officer, only particular contractors get their timber sold. The officers are benefiting particular contractors at the expense of others. I am not speaking with reference to any particular officer. It is a matter about which there has been a lot of complaint. It is a matter which affects the Quilon D. F. O. as much as any other D. F. O.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In the circumstances, would it not be better if the department pays the contractor as soon as the timber is delivered at the depot?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): The timber belongs to the department; so we cannot expect it to be the purchaser also. If the Government have lots of money in their Treasury it would be well and good to pay off the contractors even as soon as the timber is delivered at the depots. If that cannot be done, my point is that the contractors should not be put to serious loss by delaying the sale of their timber and, consequently, also the payments to them for the work they have done in working down the timber. It would be enough if the department would so arrange that, in the order in which timber is landed at the depots, the lots would be sold in auction.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your point is that they should be sold in the order of landing without any reference to the personalities of the contractors?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Yes; also discretion should not be allowed in the matter of choosing the timber. In the order of landing, the lots must be sold, for the price they fetch, irrespective of their quality.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not quite follow you.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): It may happen that some lots may be bad, and the officer may think that on particular days they might not fetch a good price, and may therefore leave them aside and take up some other lots for sale in order that he might show to Government better returns from the auction sale. It is under cover of this excuse that the Divisional Forest Officers sell the lots of particular contractors in preference to those of others.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You would not allow any discretion, in the matter of the time of the sale of particular lots of timber, to the Divisional Forest officer?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): My point is that the lots must be sold in the order in which they are landed at the depots, even if the Government stand to loose a bit on that account, provided the sale price does not go below the tariff value or the rate now fixed

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for the round logs. The Divisional Forest Officers should be compelled to proceed with the sale of the timber in the order in which they are delivered at the depots. In this connection, I would point out that the dullness of the timber market which the Conservator refers to in his Report, is due to the fact that the timber contractors are being pauperised one after another.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): May I ask one question before he sits down? Was the member referring to the sale of boles or of sawn timber materials?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Sawn materials?

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): The difference between the two is not quite clear to me. I believe both are sawn. Neither of them is grown in the forests as such. I think the boles are sawn to specific dimensions. So far as my present observations are concerned, I do not make any distinction between boles and other sawn materials. I refer to the labour spent on the timber grown in our forests.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): My friend Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai has been referring, almost personally, to the Divisional Forest Officer, Quilon; and I do not know whether, so far as those personal matters are concerned, I would be justified in elaborately replying to the several points raised. But there are certain points affecting the work of the department which I shall now deal with.

As was read out by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, the Administration Report of the Department says that the touring work of the Quilon Divisional Forest Officer was not satisfactory. It is a fact that Mr. Oomman has been ailing from asthma for the last one year; and even now, so far as I am able to see, he is not better. It is that that has affected his touring work. Recently, he went to Madras and had some injections; but they did not prove effective.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): All these are personal matters. We are not concerned here with his ill-health or the treatment that he undergoes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Conservator is giving you the reason for the officer's unsatisfactory touring work.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): We do not want the explanation from the Conservator. The officer should have been asked to take leave.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, he has been asked to take leave as soon as the current year is over.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What have you to say with regard to the other question, that he has been proselytising?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Before that, I should like to deal with the allegation that I asked the Shencottah D. F. O. to conduct the timber auction at Punalur also, because the Quilon Officer's work was not quite satifactory.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Does not the auction sale of the timber at Punalur form part of the legitimate work of the Quilon D. F. O.?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That is what I am going to explain. It was the rule that the officer of each Division should auction the timber in the depots of his Division. Recently, in the Punalur Depot, timber from the Quilon Division as well as from the Central Division happened to be stocked. There is a general impression that the Quilon Division timber was not of good quality; and so, when, at Punalur, the Central Division Officer auctions his timber and the Quilon Division Officer sells his timber, all the people go in only for the Central Division timber, so that it was found extremely difficult to dispose of the Quilon Division timber. It was therefore that I instructed the Central Division Officer to sell both the Central Division and the Quilon Division timbers, at Punalur, so that the people may not be able to make any distinction between the two.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Has the Conservator any complaint about the auction sales conducted by the Quilon D. F. O., Mr. Oommen?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cancelled one auction because, it appeared to me, the price realised was very low; and I asked the Central Division Officer to sell the timber.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Who was the particular purchaser in that auction?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I do not remember the name.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): രണ്ടാമതു ലേല ത്തിൽ ആദ്യലേലസംഖ്യയെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ കിട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): കുറച്ചു കൂടുതൽ കിട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): ഉദ്ദേശം ക്യൂബിക്ക അടിക്ക എന്തു കൂടുതൽ കിട്ടി?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ഒരണാ യോ രണ്ടണയോ കിട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ട്, കുറവായിട്ട ഒരിക്കലും പോയിട്ടില്ല. The same was the case with regard to the Tenmalai Depot also.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How many cubic feet were sold at that auction?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have not got the exact figures just at present. I think it would be somewhere about 2,000 c. ft.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : What was the difference in the price in the two sales?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Just about Rs. 50.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The amount does not very much matter. Whether it is Rs. 50 or 500, so far as the Government are concerned, they must get some advantage in the price.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Reference was also made to the reduction, in the measurements made by the D. F. O. Mr. Oomman on timber supplied. Sir, our system of payment of working charges to contractors depends on the quality of the timber. They are paid at fixed rates only when the timber is sold at tariff vulue or more; they get only a percentage of the sale proceeds in other cases. If the contractor had brought timber of indifferent quality, it is naturally the duty of the D. F. O. to endeavour to omit the defective portions of the logs in taking measurement.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) ; Where is the difficulty in taking measurements as soon as the timber is delivered at the depots, and in paying the contractors immediately at a fixed rate?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You do not seem to follow him, Mr. Asan. In certain cases, fixed rate is allowed to the contractors ; in other cases he gets only a percentage of the sale proceeds.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : Does the member say that the rate is variable in some cases according to the sale price, and is fixed in other cases?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : The D. F. O. can make payments only in cases in which the contractor is eligible to get *kolevila* at the fixed rate. In regard to cases in which the contractors are entitled only to a percentage of the sale proceeds, the D. F. O. is given the discretion to make advance payment to them not exceeding 50 per cent of the probable sale price of the timber.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : Is the member aware that the Quilon D. F. O. has been selling the timber of only one particular contractor?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I am coming to that.

In regard to the D. F. O. making reductions in the measurement of logs, I do not think it is done on a large scale as Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai seemed to suggest.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) ; May I know whether, under the rules, the D. F. O. is authorised to make any reduction in the measurement?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : After check measurement? No.

Then, Sir, Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai was referring to the evangelical work of Mr. Oommen. Mr. Oommen is, of course, religious by temperament.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Has his religiousness anything to do with his ill-health ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Oh! no.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*) : ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെയിടയിൽ സുവിശേഷവേല ചെയ്യുന്നതായി വല്ല പരാതിയും മെമ്പർക്ക കാട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : അതാണ് പറയാൻ പോകുന്നത്.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : So far as I can see, Sir, his work is not affected at all by his religious activities. He talks of religion very often, so that people are some times led to think that he is somewhat a bigot or a maniac. I do not know how to call him.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : According to you, his evangelical work does not affect his work as D. F. O. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai also referred to Mr. Oommen's frequent visits to his estate somewhere there.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Yes, Sir I was about to refer to that.

He has only a small estate of about 12 acres. He does not go there so often. It does not require much of his attention.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Is the member aware that Mr. Oommen has interest in another estate of which he has taken a mortgage ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Do you expect public servants to have no property whatsoever ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : That is outside his jurisdiction, and he has to get my previous permission if he wants to go to that estate.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Does the member know that Mr. Oommen goes there without previous permission from the Head of the Department ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I do not know.

Then, Sir, in regard to the writing on Mr. Oommen's car, that "*Jesus alone saves*", I had a talk with him on the subject.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Is it a Government car ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : No ; It his own car.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Then, how does it concern us?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : It has attracted everybody's attention ; and Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai has referred to it. It is a car with a single door ; and the inscription is on that door, so that when one gets into the car he would surely see the inscription. Mr. Oommen told me that it was like sending a silent prayer to God to prevent accidents and troubles, a substitute for the Tibetan prayer wheel.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not think there is anything wrong in it.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanacherry cum Peermade*): ഇങ്ങനെ കാറിലും മറ്റും എഴുതി വയ്ക്കുന്നതു വലിയ കുറ്റമല്ലേ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): കുറ്റമല്ലാ എന്നാണു് പറയുന്നതു്.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Here is the name of Jesus written in bold letters in front of his car. I want to know whether if another D. F. O. takes it into his head to have the advertisement of Mellin's Food in front of his car, it will attract the attention of the Conservator and provoke him into questioning him?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The only question is whether it will affect his work.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): കാറിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ എഴുതിവയ്ക്കുന്നതു കുറ്റകരമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ ഒരു സർക്കുലർ അയക്കരുതോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*). കാർ അവരുടെ പ്രൈവറ്റ്കാർ ആണു്. അതിൽ എന്തുംചെയ്യാം.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The last point touched was about the monopoly of one contractor in the sale of timber. You reply that and then close.

MR. R. DHANUKHOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Mr. Krishna Pillai said something about the partiality shown to some contractors in the disposal of the timber supplied by them. Sir, in the matter of boles, we have sold them wholesale, and it is immaterial when they are measured over. The contractor gets his working charges as soon as they are measured over. As regards other sawn materials, so, far, I have never heard any complaint of delay in the disposal. There may be some species which cannot be sold readily. For example nobody wants *maruthu* at present; and a D. F. O. may find it difficult to get a purchaser. This species may come under the contract of one contractor and it has to remain unsold. Another contractor may be supplying *kambagom* for which there is always demand, and his supply will be readily sold. This is what happens usually, and the D. F. O. cannot do anything. He will be guided only by the demand.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is the Conservator aware that timber belonging to one contractor is being sold every month and he is drawing a lot of money from the Government treasuries.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I would like to get the name of that particular contractor. It may be that he supplies *thambakom* which is easily sold, and other contractors may supply timber for which there is less demand.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) I think the charges made against the D. F. O. at Quilon have been practically admitted by the Conservator. I wish to know what he has to say in regard to that and whether he will relieve us of him at least temporarily?

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: He said that he has been asked to take leave and that the other question would be enquired into.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Then, alright. I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 296 and 297

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

296. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,170 for temporary clerks of Divisional Offices by Rs. 100

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN:

297. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,36,366 for Establishment by Re. 1.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Motions 298 to 303 are identical motions, and I ask Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai to move his motion No. 298; and those who are interested in it may take part in the debate.

Motion 298.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I move—

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 8,39,096 under Demand VII by Re. 1.

In making this motion I do not want to traverse all the points that I have mentioned in detail. I want to summarise the whole thing as follows:

There is some apparent discrepancy about the provision of Rs 2069 in the Budget for the Personal Assistant to the Conservator. In fact, it would come only to Rs. 1920. The provision for the entertainment of 16 clerks for the payment of *kudivila* is excessive and there is absolutely no justification in saying that he wants a clerk on Rs. 50 when there are his Personal Assistant, Head Clerk and two or three Clerks who are getting a higher pay.

Coming to the prayer for the creation of the place of an additional Forester, I would invite the attention of the House to the number of Foresters the Department already has. At present the strength of this force is about 62, 17 on Rs. 28, 24 on Rs. 24 and 21 on Rs. 20. The Conservator suggests that he wants an additional Forester for the purpose of attending to the timber stored at Puliannur. My information is that there is a Ranger's Office there which has extensive premises and that the timber can be stored there and that the Clerk attached to the Ranger's Office can be asked to attend to this work also. If necessary an allowance may be given which would come only to a very small amount. So, my submission is that this Forester is not necessary.

Then, about the roads and communications. The Conservator wants seven thousand rupees for a road in Chenthuni valley. Exploitation was carried on there for the last so many years and we do not know how the timber that was felled was removed. What purpose would be served by this scheme, the expenditure of which will come to the huge amount of seventy thousand rupees, is not known.

The Conservator should certainly not be congratulated on the method he has pursued in beautifying the Administration Report for the year 1105 in as much as he has included many photos of the various

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[Mr E. V. Krishna Pillai]

places on the Mekkara Achencoil road. I do not think any good purpose is served by this. This would have found a better place in a Railway Guide or in a Travellers Guide. This does not convince any one of the work done by the Forest Department. It only shows the natural beauty with which Travancore is blessed. For this Mekkara—Achencoil road, the Conservator wants fifty thousand rupees. I do not think any good purpose will be served by this, for we all know that the road has already been constructed and opened by the Dewan. It is something beyond our comprehension when the Conservator asks for this amount at this time of economic depression.

I want to say a word about the way in which our forests are being exploited. The Conservator anticipates an additional amount in the coming year because the amount that has been realised according to the budget this year on royal trees is 5,83,000 and on jungle it is seven lakhs eighty six thousand and two hundred as against 6,23,500 and 731,000 next year. In the Administration Report, the Conservator himself admits that on account of the economic depression that is prevalent everywhere he would not be able to find suitable markets for our timber. So, my submission is that we stand in danger of our forests being exploited by the Conservator to an undesirable degree. In previous years, as will be seen, the largest amount realised was 12 lakhs, and this year he anticipates an amount of 16 lakhs, which means that some rough handling is being done; and it is this that we want the Conservator to guard against. Sir, the two departments which used to consume a large portion of our timber inside the State are the P. W. Department and the Maramath Department. And we know this year a great deal of retrenchment has been effected, and so we cannot expect any large demand from these two departments. So, what I say is that the Conservator has overestimated the amount. We know enough of the foreign markets to which our timber is sent. I would invite the attention of the House to the valuable suggestion made by the Indian Retrenchment Committee that those who are in management of departments should be well posted with information relating to commerce. I do not know how the Travancore Government has accepted that suggestion. We know of a man sent by the Conservator to Calcutta to find out suitable markets there for our timber and the loss the department had to meet in acting according to his advice. I do not know whether the department has made any other attempt since then to find out suitable markets for our timber.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Your time is up. You will have to wind up.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): All that I have to say is that the Conservator was not wise enough in allotting so much money for the various items and in anticipating a revenue which is not at all justified under the circumstances.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I did not want to intervene in this discussion but for the fact that Mr. Krishna Pillai

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referred in this speech as well as in his previous speech to the hugeness of the expenditure that is proposed to be incurred for the additional staff in connection with the *kudivila* arrears. This proposal was placed before the Finance Committee, and all the three non-official members, though we are powerless, took objection to the hugeness of the amount. But the Government placed before us the facts and figures and also the arrears that still remained to be cleared, and therefore, in a way, we were eventually made to be convinced of the necessity for some additional staff. As a result of our protestations some reduction was made in the original expenditure proposed. Now Sir, from year, to year, we have been hearing from our friends like Mr. Kunjitoman loud complaints about the unsatisfactory way in which arrears of *kudivila* are disposed off, and therefore we find it is a thing in which the people could wait no longer, Therefore, in spite of the hugeness of the expenditure involved we should consent to the proposal though we are financially in a very bad condition.

In this connection I am reminded of an instance in which the Forest authorities have been negligent in the matter of disposing of *kudivila*. In my own taluk, about seven years ago, some trees belonging to a Jenmi who has a standing and who is a client of mine, were cut down and about Rs. 1,000 was due to him. He put in a petition to the Forest authorities. Many months afterwards he was asked by the Forest Assistant Conservator to produce the Tahsildar's certificate. That was produced and many months afterwards he was asked to produce some title deeds to the property, and that also was done. The party ; finding that nothing came out of it, had to send a suit notice to the Government. So, my request to the Conservator is that, at least in future, he must instruct his subordinates to be more vigilent in the matter of disposing of *kudivila* claims.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) ; Since my friend Mr. N. K. Krishna Pillai referred to the proceedings in the Finance Committee I want to add a word. We were not actually convinced of the necessity of the staff. But we found that there were lots of arrears.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : I only said 'in a way.'

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Yes, some reduction was allowed. But I want to point out that the Conservator has not told us how far the work connected with the *kudivila* claims is being taken up and done. He has not supplied statistics as regards that for the last year. Unless this is supplied to us we will be in a very difficult position. We want to know what work is being done in each division. It is just to point out that that I wanted to intervene.

MR. N. A. SUNDARAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Sir, I rise with extreme pleasure to support the motion for a reduction in the staff of the Forest Department, because the policy of the department as regards Nanjanad is not at all satisfactory. They have not been allowing us to gather green leaves which are useful as manure, or to cut timber for

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[Mr. N. A. Sundaram Pillai]

making agricultural implements, or to allow our cattle to graze in the forests or to gather fire wood. Poor people were hitherto gathering firewood from the forests free of charge. Since the time of the present Conservator-I do not know the time when the rule was introduced-they have to purchase it at a very heavy cost. We are not at all allowed to collect green manure. Since the advent of the Agricultural Department scientific manures have been introduced. The Conservator is so very keen to punish people who go to the forests. We have been removing these materials from the forests from time immemorial and that custom has now been stopped by the present Conservator. We are suffering untold hardship, and I believe the Conservator will issue such orders as would relieve the poor people in this matter.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Sir, I rise to support the motion before the House because I want to make a few observations regarding *kudivila*. The normal establishment at the Conservator's office, in the Forest Department generally, has been conducting this work for a long time. The question of the payment of arrears of *kudivila* was brought to the notice of the House three years ago, and, in 1104, the Conservator brought a proposal for a temporory staff of four or five clerks just to see that these arrears are cleared without delay and the grievences of the parties redressed. The members may remember the Conservator reading a long statement and saying that he hoped to finish the work with the staff then asked for. Now, that staff has been working there for two years. In 1106 he comes and says that that staff should be increased to 16. I wish to know whether by the lapse of time the arrears have been accumulating. I do not know why he should now come with a demand for 16 Clerks, and that on a higher grade. He wants two clerks on Rs. 30, six on Rs. 25, and eight on Rs. 20.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): And another clerk on Rs. 50.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The Conservator says 'If you do not sanction me the staff I shall not be able to dispose of the claims of arrears. Sir, I think he is taking undue advantage of the human nature of many of the members. I do not know why he should now come in for a staff, after these two years. Why did he not come in 1104 for the necessary staff if he found it necessary. Sir, I think we should think twice before we sanction this. I want to support the motion of Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai to reduce just one rupee because I think that would be sufficient censure on the Conservator. If we cut down the whole amount for the staff then the Conservator will have an excuse that he was not able to pay off the arrears because his staff was not sanctioned; and there will be complaint from the people also.

Another fact that I want to point out is that three years back we suggested that the royalty on teak and blackwood should be abolished; and the Conservator said it is a matter which requires attention and that Government would consider the matter and give a reply. Now, three

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years have elapsed, and what has Government done in the matter? Government might be thinking of abolishing the royalty after cutting all these trees. My friend Mr. Kocheepan Mapallai was saying that there was a practice in Cochin to publish the steps taken by the Government on the recommendations of the council there. Nothing is done here. If we are to repeat all the proposals year after year we will not be able to bring in any new proposal. With these words, I support the motion before the House.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ എതിർക്കുന്നു. അധ:കൃതരുടെ ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനകാര്യത്തിൽ കൺസർവേറ്റർ വേണ്ടപോലെ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അധ:കൃതരുടെയിടയിൽ പരീക്ഷ പാസായിട്ടുള്ളവരുണ്ടെന്നും അവർക്കു 10 ശതമാനം ഉദ്യോഗം ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നും ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. കാടുകളിൽ സഞ്ചരിച്ച് അവിടെയുള്ള സ്ഥിതിഗതികൾ നല്ലവണ്ണം മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നതിനും മറും അവിടത്തെ ശീതോഷ്ണസ്ഥിതിക്കു പറ്റിയ ശരീരപ്രകൃതിയുള്ള ചേരമർ, സാമ്പവർ, ഐനവർ, പുലയർ തുടങ്ങിയുള്ളവർക്കു വനം ഗാർഡു ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം അവർക്കു ആ ജോലി ശരിപോലെ നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നതിനു സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അവരുടെ ശരീരപ്രകൃതി മറ്റുള്ളവരെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു അതിനു പറ്റുന്നതുമാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഇനിയെങ്കിലും ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ അധ:കൃതർക്കു ഉദ്യോഗം നൽകണമെന്നു കൺസർവേറ്റർ അവർകളേയും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനേയും ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ എതിർത്തുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): Sir, I beg to support the motion. The policy of this Department is very peculiar. In the matter of paying *kudivila* they raise all obstacles against the *kudiyans*. In the matter of people collecting manure leaves and agricultural implements and in grazing cattle, all sorts of obstacles are placed against the people. One of my predecessors has already dealt with at length. The Department appears to have peculiar laws in their favour. They want the laws to be altered in all possible ways against the people. They want to cast the burden of proof on the people and to save themselves in all possible ways. On page 25 of the Administration report I find that they raise a complaint against the Magistrate. It is in connection with an extract of a report sent from the Kottayam Divisional Forest Officer. It reads thus:

> "In this connection I cannot but mention here the difficulty with which Range Officers are confronted in taking forest cases in Courts as it has become rather impossible to convince the Magistrates and to satisfy them with evidence."

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do you think that your subordinate was in order in making that recommendation, Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai?

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MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): They possibly refer to the difficulties of the prosecution on the ground that the evidence of independent witnesses are required for a conviction. Here again, this Department wants peculiar law of evidence. They want the law of evidence to be altered with a view to tease the people, to the advantage of the subordinates who are likely to take up cases against peasants without sufficient basis. Even personal grudge may move these subordinates to drag the simple peasants to Courts of Law. There, before the judiciary, the peasant would expect to get justice even at the risk of some cost and trouble; but Magistrates too are threatened, it appears, by such reports to the Government. If the Government endorse the reports of such persons, then the low-paid Magistrates.....!

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You cannot expect the Forest Department to sit in judgment on Judicial Officers.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): That is what I say. If the low-paid and inexperienced Magistrates read these statements and reports made by better-paid officers of a sister department they might be misled by the policy of the department. They are likely to please the department at the cost of justice due to the people. Such abuses should be clearly discouraged and totally prevented. With these words, I resume my seat.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Sir, I rise to support the motion of Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai just to say a word about one aspect of the administration, that is, from the commercial point of view. A great portion of the timber of our country is being consumed by the Districts of Tinnevelly, Madura, Ramnad and, probably, Trichinopoly. At any rate, that used to be the case for some years. But I now understand that the demand from Trichinopoly, Madura and Ramnad is gradually going down. On enquiry I learn that it is due to the fact that a large quantity of timber from the Malabar side is finding its way to those districts. This is due to the fact that the rates for Malabar timber have been quoted by the Railway Company at something lower than the normal rates. Special rates have been allowed for timber from Malabar coming to Ramnad and some other places. But in the case of our timber, normal rates are obtaining even now. This has led to a great demand for Malabar timber and a corresponding fall in the demand for our timber. I therefore urge upon the Government to urge on the Railway authorities to find their way to make a similar reduction in rates for our timber taken to those districts. This would to a great extent increase the demand for our timber and contribute to a substantial increase in the forest revenue of the State.

I would next refer to one other matter which is immediately connected with the Shencotta taluk. I find from the Administration Report that a fresh scheme for the working of a portion of the Puliyara Reserve, known as the Mulakarachanpara, has been sanctioned by the Government. It has been taken up by the Forest Department and is being worked from the beginning of 1105. Synchronously with the working of this scheme I find there is a material fall in the annual rainfall in the neighbourhood of Shencotta. And, I am led to

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connect the fall in the rainfall with the working of the Mulakarachanpara scheme. I would ask the Forest Department either to suspend the working of the scheme or to investigate the causes for the fall in the rainfall. With these words, I support the motion of Mr. Krishna Pillai.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, my friend Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai was referring in his speech to the Personal Assistant's salary as provided in the budget. With regard to this, what I have to explain is that this budget was submitted to Government at a time when the Personal Assistant was another gentleman who was drawing a higher salary; but the present incumbent is drawing only a lesser salary. Then, with regard to the Temporary Clerk on Rs. 50, this post is necessary for the settlement of *kudivila* claims about which there have been loud complaints. Sir, you have been in the House for the last so many years, and you know with what loudness complaints have been made in regard to this matter. This is a legacy left to us by our predecessors. Under the Forest Regulation, the owner of the land is—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Asan's specific complaint is that you have asked for an additional staff of five Clerks.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I am coming to that. Mr. Krishna Pillai also wanted to say something about this 50 rupees Clerk.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Their objection is not to allow you the five additional clerks; it is to ask you how you were doing in the past five years.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): We know that, for the past several years, this *kudivila* has not been paid. In recent years, pressure has been brought to bear upon the Government, and we had to devise means to clear the accummulated arrears. We had no specific information about the amount that had to be paid at that time. We thought that by appointing a few additional Clerks we would be able to make the work current. In 1094 Government sanctioned six additional clerks, 2 for the Kottayam Division 2 for the Central Division and 2 for my office. But still the complaint has been more and more keen.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): How many Clerks were engaged last year?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Six clerks; two in my office, 2 in the Central Division and 2 in the Northern Divisions.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether the Conservator is prepared to give statistics of the work done by these clerks in the Divisions?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes Sir. According to the statement prepared—it cannot be taken to be too accurate,—the number of *kudivila* claims registered in the several offices up to the end of 1105, amounts to 3,700 During 1106, 427 additional claims were also added to make a total of 4,127 claims to be disposed of. Of these, claims have been actually preferred only in the case of 935 cases. Of course they will all be coming later on. At present only 935 claims have been preferred.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Out of this 4000, as a matter of fact, only 900 individuals have put in claims. The remaining was got up from the records of your office?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, we have registered them. Out of these 935 claims, 400 claims were investigated by the department with the help of the additional Clerks in 1106, of which 341 were finally settled.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I have a question. By the investigation conducted in regard to *kudivila*, does he mean any actual investigation or only correspondence work?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): We have to determine whether X or Y is the rightful claimant for the *kudivila*. For that purpose we have to write to the Depot Officers and ascertain what amount is due to a claimant. We have to enquire from the Tahsildars whether he is the rightful claimant.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Does it involve their going about?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No. It is done in the Office. Out of these 341 claims finally settled, 203 claims were paid. The total value of the 341 settled claims comes to nearly a lakh of rupees of which we were able to pay only 203 claims amounting to Rs. 75,000. We have only a provision of Rs 75,000 in the Budget of this year.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether it is due to insufficiency of funds that the remaining settled claims were not paid?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): So, their right for receiving payment has been decided?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, certainly.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): So, for making payments for the remaining claims, no additional hand is required?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Out of 4114 claims we have been able to dispose of in one year only 341 claims.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Am I to understand that 341 claims have been finally settled of which only 203 were paid finally because we had money only for that.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) Yes. Only 341 claims could be settled. At this rate it will take nearly 16 years for all the claims to be settled finally; and of course more will be arising every year.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): How many claims were settled in 1105?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) ; I have got figures only for 1106. I can give you the amount paid for 1105. It is Rs. 64,000.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : May I know if it is a fact that in a civil suit instituted by a *kudiyan* against Government, Government contested that it was barred by limitation ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I do not know, sir. It will not be graceful for the Government to go on the plea that it is time-barred.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : Will he kindly enquire whether such an argument was advanced ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Even if the defendant did not raise the contention of limitation, the Court is bound to reject it if it is actually barred.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : My argument is that the defendant raised it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : May I know the number of *kudivila* claims at the close of 1104 ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) ; I have not got the figures.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : May I know how many *kudivila* cases were on the register when he asked for five additional Clerks ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I have not got the figures. We were compelled to pay some of these *kudivila* claims; and Government also thought that there was no meaning in being a debtor and then going about saying that the Forest Department was showing a surplus revenue. It is assuredly a question of clearing off our debts.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : What is the budget allotment for 1107 for *kudivila* claims ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) ; A lakh of rupees of which Rs. 30,000 is due for the claims already settled; and we can pay only Rs. 70,000 in 1107 as *kudivila*.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : When the Conservator comes forward for the additional staff, he must also have provision for payment of the *kudivila* claims that may be settled.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : When we prepared the budget we did not anticipate that the amount for 1106 would be exceeded. The progress during the past years has been like this :—In 1101, Rs. 50,000, in 1102 Rs. 50,000, in 1103 Rs. 45,000 and in 1104 Rs. 54,000, in 1105, Rs. 64,002. So only, we provided Rs. 75,000 for 1106 But, now, on account of the pressure brought to bear on the Divisional Officers, they have been able to show better

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[Mr. R. Danukoti Pillai.]

outturn. So, we thought that an amount of a lakh of rupees will be necessary for the next year. We did not know that this scheme will be sanctioned by the Government at a time of financial strain like this. We want more funds also. If the additional clerks are given, they will be able to dispose of more claims.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : And then you will be able to come to the House for additional grant ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I should think so.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : If any benefit is to be derived out of the additional staff, should we not have at least 3 lakhs of rupees next year ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : When they have settled claims he will come to the house for an additional grant. His position seems to be that there is no use of asking for 3 lakhs without settling the claims.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): What about the Clerk to whom the fifty rupees appointment will go in connection with the *kudivila* ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : When all these *kudivila* claims are received from the Divisional Officers they have to be scrutinised thoroughly in my office. It is not advisable to entrust the work to low-paid Clerks. We want responsible clerks whose scrutiny could be taken as final. If we are to go upon that as final we must have some responsible Clerk entrusted with the business. It is for that that the fifty rupees Clerk is provided for in my office.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Does he suggest that as far as *kudivila* claims are concerned he would put his signature on the paper submitted by a fifty rupees Clerk ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : No, not in that sense. He will be more responsible than a Clerk who is getting only Rs. 20.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : What is the present strength of Clerks in his office ? With all his Personal Assistant, Manager and Head Clerk, why does he ask for one more Clerk ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : They are not sufficient. They would be enough for the current work only.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Is the Conservator in a position to give the House an approximate idea of the amount of *kudivila* claims that may be due ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That is asking him to speak on guess.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : May I just have an approximate idea ? Will it be 20 lakhs or 15 lakhs ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : We will have to meet an expenditure of 3 or 4 lakhs. It is only a rough guess.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Sir, is it not expected that all the claims will be settled by the end of 1107 ?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Not at all. It will take several years at the present rate. We cannot say definitely that all the claims will be settled at the end of a particular period. Our aim is to settle them as early as possible. It is a very laborious work. Things have been allowed to drift on like that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it suggested that even with the sixteen clerks now asked for, the claims could not be settled by end of the year 1107?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No, they could not be.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Out of the 341 claims settled how many are old claims and how many are new?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I am not able to say.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How many of these 341 are recent claims and how many are claims in reference to which there are no proper accounts?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Presumably it is easier for Divisional Officers to settle recent claims than old claims.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: May I ask you to close?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): One question. In case most of these people do not prefer claims, will there be much work for these clerks? Only 900 persons have preferred claims in 1106. I would like to know whether there would be as much work for 1107 as there would be if all these persons go and prefer claims.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): How are we to know that all these persons will prefer claims. If they all come to know that additional clerks have been sanctioned, we would be flooded with claims.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is it because there is no staff in the office that they have not come in with the claims?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: When there are more clerks, more claims will be coming in.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): But there is no certainty that they will be coming in.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Tomorrow if it is known that additional clerks have been sanctioned there will be a number of applications.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) Another question. Is the work that is to be turned out in 1107 of a different kind from the work that was done in 1106?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I should think so. We have to begin from the very beginning.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapallai*): Next year you have to begin from the beginning.

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): In regard to the old claims, we have to settle what the liabilities of the Government are with regard to *kudivila*. We have to see when the claim has arisen, and we have to go through so many records.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : That was done in regard to cases that were disposed of ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Most of them are recent cases.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : So, old cases have not been taken up hitherto?

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Sir, suppose all the hands are given. How long will it take to clear off arrears ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I cannot say. It will take about three or four years.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): He has not been able to give me an answer with regard to the work of the Divisions.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I do not want to bore the House with all the details. Here are the figures. If the member wants them I shall give the figures. In the Northern Division there were 228 new claims.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How many old claims ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Five old claims The total number of claims to be settled there is 262, both old and new. I am speaking separately for each division now. In the Kottayam Division, up to end of 1105, pending claims were 1090, and 46 additional claims made a total of 1136 claims of which claims were preferred for 510; and the number of claims finally settled was 242.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : How many were paid ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): 168. The amount paid was Rs. 24,000. 423 claims were registered during the year. In the Central Division there were 1154 old claims and 92 new claims. The total claims were 1246 in number. The number of claims investigated amounted to 38 and the number of claims finally settled was 50, of which 16 claims have been paid.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We rise now to meet again at a quarter to three.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2.2 P. M. and reassembled at 2.45.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : We have got 40 minutes more for this demand.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Sir, I had not finished my speech.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your time was up. You will have another opportunity to speak later on.

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MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry. North*) : ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ഭരണ നയത്തെ വിമർശിക്കുന്നതി നുദ്ദിഷ്ടമായ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഭരണനയം ഗവണ്മെൻറിന് നഷ്ടകരവും ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപദ്ര വകരവും ആണെന്ന് ഈ പ്രതിനിധിസഭയിൽ അനേകം പ്രാവശ്യം വ്യക്തപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ മൂന്നിലൊരുഭാഗം റി സർവായി തിരിച്ച് ആരേയും പ്രവേശിപ്പിക്കാതെ കാട്ടുജന്തുക്കളുടെ സ ഞ്ചാരവിഹാരത്തിനായി ഒഴിച്ചിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ആളൊന്നി ന് ശരാശരി ര ള സെൻറുസ്ഥലംപോലും ഇല്ല. കൃഷി അല്ലാതെ മറ്റു അധികതൊഴിലുകളില്ല. കച്ചവടം നടത്തുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അത് കൃഷി ഉൽപന്നങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടാണ്. ഈ വിധത്തിൽ കാർഷികപ്രധാനമായിരി ക്കുന്ന ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൽ മൂന്നിലൊരുഭാഗം റിസർവ്വാക്കിവച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത് ആക്ഷേപയോഗ്യമാണെന്ന് ഈ നിയമസഭയിലും പ്രജാസഭയിലും തു ടരെത്തുടരെ പറയുന്നു. നിയമസഭയിൽ ഞാൻതന്നെ ഒരു പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവന്ന് ചതുപ്പുനിലങ്ങളേയും നെൽകൃഷിക്കുപയുക്തമായ സ്ഥലങ്ങ ളേയും പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് വാദിച്ച് പാസാക്കി. എന്നാ ൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറോ ഈ സംഗതിയെ അശേഷം ഗണിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. എക്സ്പെർട്ട്സിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം അനു സരിച്ചാണല്ലൊ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഓരോ സംഗതികൾ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന ത്. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറദ്ധ്യക്ഷനായ വനശാസ്ത്രവിദഗ്ദ്ധൻ ഇതിനോ ട് അനുകൂല്യം ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഇതിനെ ആദ രിച്ച് പ്രവർത്തിക്കാത്തതെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഗവണ്മെ ൻറിനും ഈ സ്ഥിതി ഒരുപോലെ നഷ്ടകരമാണ്. ഒരു നല്ലതുക തറ വിലയായിഗവണ്മെൻറിന് കിട്ടുന്നതുകൂടാതെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് വേണ്ട ആ ഹാരസാധനങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു വലിയഭാഗം കൃഷിചെയ്തുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനും പ്ര സ്തുത പ്രമേയം നടപ്പിൽവരുത്തുന്നതായാൽ സാധിക്കും. റിസർവ്മാത്ര മല്ല ഫാറസ്റ്റുകാർ ഭരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ പേരിൽ പ തിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള ഭൂമികളിലുംകൂടി അധികാരം ചെലുത്തി ജനങ്ങളെ പല വിധത്തിൽ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. കുടികളുടെ വക പുരയിട ങ്ങളിൽ നിൽക്കുന്ന തേക്കുവൃക്ഷങ്ങളെ യഥേഷ്ടം മുറിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോക യും അതിന് കൊടുക്കാനുള്ള കുടിവില കൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യു ന്നു. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഒട്ടുവളരെ ചോദ്യോത്തരങ്ങൾ നടത്തി സംഗതി വ്യക്തപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. എങ്കിലും ഇപ്പോഴും ഒരു വലിയതുക കൊടു

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

ത്തു തീർക്കാനുണ്ടു്. ആ തുകകൾ ഉടനെ കൊടുക്കാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു് പറഞ്ഞു് സമയം നീട്ടുകയല്ലാതെ കായ്ത്തിനു് നടപ്പു കാണുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ കുടികളുടെ പുരയിടങ്ങളിൽ നിൽക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾ നികുതികൊടുക്കുന്ന പുരയിടങ്ങളിൽനിൽക്കുന്ന വൃക്ഷങ്ങളുടെ എല്ലാ അവകാശങ്ങളും അവർക്കുതന്നെ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമായി വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കണം. ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി അതുപോലെ കൌൺസിലിൽ പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവന്നു വോട്ടനിട്ടതിൽ പാസായില്ല. രണ്ടാമതു കൊണ്ടുവന്നപ്പോൾ പ്രസിഡൻറിന്റെ കാസ്റ്റിംഗ് വോട്ടുകൊണ്ടു പ്രമേയം തള്ളിപ്പോയി. ഞാൻ വീണ്ടും ഒരുപക്ഷേപംകൊണ്ടുവന്നു കായ്കാരണസഹിതം ഈ സംഗതി ഈ കൌൺസിലിനെ മനസ്സിലാക്കി ഒരു വലിയ മെജാറിട്ടിയോടുകൂടി പാസാക്കി. അതിനേയും അവഗണിച്ചാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതു്. ആദ്യം റസല്യൂഷൻ കൊണ്ടുവന്നപ്പോൾ ഇതിലേയ്ക്കു ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി. ആ കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടു എന്തുചെയ്തു എന്നു ചോദിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഇപ്പോഴും അതു ആലോചനയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു ഈ കഴിഞ്ഞ ബുധനാഴ്ച എന്റെ ഒരു ചോദ്യത്തിനു മറുപടി പറയുകയാണുണ്ടായതു്. ഒൻപതു വർഷത്തിനുമുൻപു ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ടിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണു് ഇപ്പോഴും ആലോചിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ വിധത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഒരുപോലെ ഉപദ്രവകരമായിത്തീരത്തക്ക നിലയിലാണു് ഫാറസ്റ്റു ഭരണം നടന്നുവരുന്നതു്.

ചേരിക്കലുകളിലേയും പുരയിടങ്ങളിലേയും തേക്കുതടികളെ സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനെന്നും പറഞ്ഞു് ഫ്ാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ഗാർഡുകളെല്ലാം നാട്ടുപുറങ്ങളിൽക്കൂടി നടക്കുകയാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് റിസർവ്വിൽ വലിയ അഴിമതികൾ നടന്നുവരുന്നു. ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്കു കുടികളുടെ കായ്യം അവർ തന്നെ നോക്കിക്കൊള്ളട്ടെ എന്നു വിടുന്നതാണു് നല്ലതു്. കുടികളുടെവക പുരയിടങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും മരുതു മുതലായ വൃക്ഷങ്ങളെ മുറിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു ഫാറസ്റ്റുകാരുടെ അനുമതിവേണം. ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റിയും ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ പ്രതിപാദിച്ചതിന്റെ ഫലമായി ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുകയും റിപ്പോർട്ടു വരുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു. ആ റിപ്പോർട്ടിനെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിയും ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഈസംഗതികൾ ആവർത്തിച്ചാവർത്തിച്ചു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരികയും പ്രമേയങ്ങളും ഉപക്ഷേപങ്ങളും കൊണ്ടുവന്നു പാസാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറും ഗവണ്മെൻറും കേവലം മൌനം ദീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു് രാജ്യ

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ത്തിന്റെ അഭ്യുന്നതിക്കും ജനക്ഷേമത്തിനും ഹാനികരമാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഗവണ്മെന്റു ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഈ കൌൺസിലിലെ തീരുമാനമനുസരിച്ചു ഉടനെ പ്രവർത്തിയ്ക്കണം. മരച്ചീനി മുതലായകൃഷിയ്ക്കുപയുക്തമായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളും സ്വാമ്പികുരിയായും ഫാറസ്റ്റിൽനിന്നും ഒഴിച്ചു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. മറ്റുള്ളസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പെട്ടെന്നൊഴിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിലും നെൽകൃഷിക്കുപയുക്തമായ ചതുപ്പുനിലങ്ങൾ എങ്കിലും ഉടനടി ചില്ലറയായി ലേലത്തിൽ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണം.

മുൻപുപറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ഫാറസ്റ്റുഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ സിൽബന്ധികൾ കുടികളുടെ വക പുരയിടങ്ങളിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചു കുടികൾക്കു കൃഷിക്കുദോഷം ചെയ്യുന്ന തേക്കു വൃക്ഷക്കൊമ്പുകൾ കുടികൾ മുറിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ, തങ്ങൾക്കു വല്ല പ്രതിഫലവും കിട്ടാൻ വഴിയുണ്ടോ എന്നൊക്കെ നോക്കികൊണ്ടിരിയ്ക്കുയാണ്. റിസർവ്വിനകത്തുപോയാൽ വനജന്തുക്കളിൽനിന്നും ഒന്നും കിട്ടുകയില്ലല്ലോ. ഇങ്ങനെ ഇവർ കുടിപുരയിടങ്ങളിൽചുറ്റി സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്നതു കുടികൾക്കും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും ഒന്നുപോലെ ഉപദ്രവകരമായിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ തേക്കുതടികളുടെ അവകാശം കുടികൾക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുകയും ഫാറസ്റ്റു സിൽബന്ധികളെ റിസർവു സൂക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനുതന്നെ അയക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്.

മറ്റുപല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലും ഉള്ളതുപോലെ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലും അഴിമതിക്കാരായഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർഉണ്ട്. ഈ വിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റി എന്റെ ചില മാന്യസ്നേഹിതന്മാർ ഇവിടെ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. കൈയ്ക്കൂലി, മദ്യപാനം, പിന്നെ വലുതായ മറ്റൊരുദോഷം, എന്നീ ദുഷ്ദോഷങ്ങൾക്ക് പല വകുപ്പിലേയും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഏറക്കുറെ അധീനന്മാരായിട്ടാണു കാണുന്നതു്. ചിലരിൽ വലിയ ജാതിസ്വാധീനമുണ്ട്. ഇതുകൊണ്ടു കാര്യക്ഷമതയ്ക്കു ഹാനിവരുന്നു. നല്ലവരായി ചില ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ കാണും. അധികം പേരും ഈ ദോഷങ്ങളിൽ ചിലതിനു അധീനന്മാരായിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു തന്നെ പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ളവരെ ഉടൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും പരിച്ചു വിടുകതന്നെവേണം. എന്നാൽ കുറച്ചു് ഈശ്വരവിചാരവും ഈശ്വരപ്രാർത്ഥനയും ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതൊരു ദോഷമായിട്ടു പറയാൻ പാടില്ല. ഈ വിധക്കാർ മറ്റാരോടും അനീതി പ്രവർത്തിക്കാനിടയില്ല.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): ഈശ്വരവിചാരവും ഈശ്വരപ്രാർത്ഥനയും അല്ല കുറ്റകരമായിട്ട് പറഞ്ഞതെന്നു് മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമോ?

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MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): മെമ്പർപറഞ്ഞതു് അങ്ങനെയാണെന്നു ഞാൻ ഖണ്ഡിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞില്ല. മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞ ഭാഗങ്ങൾതന്നെ ഇംഗ്ലീഷിൽ ആയതുകൊണ്ടു എനിക്കതു മുഴുവൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കാനും സാധിച്ചില്ല; എങ്കിലും മെമ്പർ ഇപ്പോൾ എന്തുദ്ദേശംപറയുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് അങ്ങനേയും കൂടി ഒരു ധ്വനി മെമ്പരുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നോ എന്നു വിചാരിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): ഇന്നു് എക്സയിസ് കമ്മീഷണർ മദ്യപാനികളുടെ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ സാമാന്യകുടിക്കാരും വലിയ കുടിക്കാരും ഉണ്ടെന്നുപറഞ്ഞു. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ മദ്യപാനം ചെയ്യുന്നവർ ഉണ്ടെന്നു മെമ്പർ പറഞ്ഞതു് ഏതുതരത്തിൽ പെട്ടവരാണു്. സാമാന്യകുടിയന്മാരൊ, അതല്ല വലിയ കുടിയന്മാരോ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): അവരുടെ കൂടെ നടന്നു് അതിന്റെ കണക്കു ഞാൻ എടുത്തിട്ടില്ല. കൃത്യനിഷ്ഠ വിട്ടുകളയുന്നവരെപ്പറ്റിയാണു് പറഞ്ഞതു്.

ദുഷ്കീർത്തിയുള്ള (നൊട്ടോറിയസായ) ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ എല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലും ധാരാളംഉണ്ടു്. അവരെ എത്രയുംവേഗം ബഹിഷ്കരിക്കേണ്ടതു് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ ശരിയായ കാര്യനടപ്പിനും ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തിനും ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ നല്ല പേരിനും അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ കാർഡുകളിൽ വല്ല വേദവാക്യവും എഴുതിവയ്ക്കുന്നതു തെറ്റല്ലേ?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): അതു തെറ്റാണെങ്കിൽ ഈശ്വരൻ ഇല്ല, മതം ഇല്ല, എന്നു് എഴുതുകയാണൊ ശരി. ഈശ്വരവിചാരം ഉള്ളവർ സാധാരണയായി നല്ലവരായിട്ടാണു കാണപ്പെടുന്നതു്. അവരിലും വഷളന്മാർ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഗൌനിക്കണം. എതായാലും നല്ല ആളുകളെ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ വയ്ക്കുകയും അല്ലാത്തവരെ ബഹിഷ്കരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണം. നീതിപാലനത്തിലും ജനക്ഷേമത്തിലുമാണു ഗവണ്മെൻറു നിഷ്കർഷിക്കേണ്ടതു്. മേല്പറഞ്ഞ ദോഷം ഉള്ളവരെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. എന്നാൽ മറ്റു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ ഉള്ളതുപോലെ അത്തരക്കാർ ഇതിൽ അധികം ഉണ്ടോ എന്നു സംശയമാണു്. മറ്റു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ വമ്പിച്ചഅഴിമതിക്കാർ വലിയവരുടെയിടയിൽ അധികമാണു്. ഇതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലുള്ളദോഷങ്ങളെക

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ണ്ണമടച്ചുമൂടിവയ്ക്കണമെന്നുപറയുന്നില്ല. അഴിമതിക്കാരെഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നുംഅന്വേഷിച്ചുകണ്ടുപിടിക്കണം. എന്നാൽവെറുതേയുള്ള ദോഷാരോപണം കേട്ടു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കരുതു്. യോഗ്യന്മാക്കു് ആപത്തും അയോഗ്യന്മാക്കു സമ്പത്തുമാണു് ഏറെക്കുറെ പബ്ലിക്കുസർവിസിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കാണുന്നതു്. ന്യായമായിട്ടു പെരുമാറുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്കു തങ്ങളുടെ സേവകന്മാക്കു ഭാക്ഷിണ്യം ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവരാം. പക്ഷപാതപരമായി പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരാണു പത്രങ്ങളിലും പ്രസംഗമണ്ഡപങ്ങളിലും സേവകന്മാരാൽ പ്രശംസിക്കപ്പെടുന്നതു്. ഇതു് എനിക്കു നല്ലവണ്ണം അറിയാം. ഇത്രയും പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, as has been observed by Mr. Damodaran Asan this motion signifies more than anything else a protest against the way in which the administration of the Forest Department is being carried on. As for the points raised by me and by my friends who supported the motion, I must say that the doubts raised in the speeches have not been satisfactorily cleared by the Conservator of Forests in his reply. It is regrettable to note, Sir, that the kind of negligence mentioned by Mr. Chattanatha Karayalar exists in the case of the Travancore timber. We are also sorry to note that the want of encouragement of the sale of Travancore timber is due to the negligence on the part of those responsible for the fixing of the railway freights. Certainly, that matter ought to have been brought to the notice of the authorities concerned.

I must confess that I, at any rate, did not feel convinced of the necessity for the additional staff asked for by the Conservator of Forests, especially the clerk on Rs. 50, whose work the Conservator was at pains to mention to us. It will be seen from the reply of the Conservator of Forests that out of the lakh of rupees budgeted for the next year only Rs. 70,000 is to be spent upon the *kudivila* claims to be settled next year and that the remaining Rs. 30,000 has to be paid in respect of the claims that have already been settled during the year. That the work has been very well done by the existing staff is quite apparent from this one fact, and I believe that takes the wind out of the Conservator's sail. The lack of sympathy which Mr. Kunjitomman was referring to is also one which has to be taken into account in connection with this matter. Taking all these into consideration, I beg to press the motion to a division.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, Mr. Kunjitomman once said that the cause of the floods was due to the conservation of forests.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): മുറ്റുനിലങ്ങൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്താൽ മഴകുറഞ്ഞുപോകുമോ?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): എന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞില്ല.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): മുഴുപ്പുനിലങ്ങൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണമെന്ന റസല്യൂഷൻ പാസാക്കിയിട്ടും അതു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താത്തതിനു കാരണമെന്താണ് ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു മുഴുവനും പറഞ്ഞുതീരട്ടെ.

It is true, Sir, as Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai observed, that I was not able, when I first spoke, to meet some of the arguments advanced from the other side but that was because of want of time and not on account of my inability to answer the points, as any one who listened to the speech would have understood. I am afraid, I may not have much time now also to refer to all the points raised ; but I shall try as far as I possibly can.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You may refer to the important points referred to by the members.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I will first skip through some of the chief points raised by Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai. He raised an objection with regard to the provision of Rs. 7,000 for the investigation of the Shendurney Valley Road. This is a subject about which I am afraid Mr. Krishna Pillai has not full knowledge. There is a road existing in the Shendurney Valley, but it does not extend beyond Eattappadappu. The idea of extending the road has been before the Government for the past 20 years, eversince the time of Mr. Rama Rao ; but for one reason or another the scheme could not be taken up and the road was not extended. We have till now been working the coupes on either side of the existing road till the ninth coupe, and hereafter it will not be possible to work the tenth coupe without extending the road. We found that we would not be able to extract any more timber without the extension of the road ; and it is only as a last resort that we approached the Government for the extension of the road. The Government were also convinced of the necessity, and they have ordered the provison of a sum of Rs. 7,000 in the Budget.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Does that road lead to unexploited areas ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes. We have till now been working as far as the existing road and the country farther is rather hilly. The want of a road there is absolutely necessary. It may not be possible for us to open the road unless we spend a considerable sum of money.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : There is plenty of timber to be extracted from there ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Yes. Then the member referred to the Mekkara-Achenkoil road and incidently made some reference to the blocks in the Administration

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Report. The idea of illustrating the Administration Report is one which has only been recently introduced. When the Chief Conservator of Forests of the Madras Presidency, Mr. Tireman, was here, he told me that the only way to bring the work of the Forest Department to the knowledge of the public was by means of illustrations in the Administration Report and with this idea in view he was also introducing illustrations in his Administration Report.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Does not the member think that the inclusion of some of the timber plantations would have been better ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) . Every year we have been supplying blocks of plantations to be printed along with the Administration Report. The only important item of work during 1106 was this road, and therefore it was that the block of this road was printed.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : In place of these blocks, the blocks of some tigers or elephants that are found there would have been more pertinent.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : That is a matter of opinion. Mr. E. V. Krishna Pillai also referred to the fact that we are likely to sell timber at cheaper rates on account of the dullness of the market simply to make up the budgeted amount. I assure him that it has never been our policy —at least after I became Conservator of Forests—to do so. We do not know whether we would be compelled to do so hereafter ; but at present we are not selling timber at cheap rates.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : May I know what was the rate in 1105 per c. ft., or for any standard measurement ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : We are selling timber in auction. We have not probably got the same price for timber this year as we got in 1105. It may be that we are not getting full value for our timber, but I can assure the member that we are not underselling just to make up the revenue.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Is any large quantity of timber sold to foreigners at a lower rate to make up the budgeted amount ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : No, not in the least. As for that matter, I may inform the House that unless foreigners come to our help, it is not possible to sell any of our timber. Timber has to be sold to foreigners, because they are the only people who would buy our timber.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : I was told that the timber was being sold to foreigners at a lower rate.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Not in the least. We sell timber only in public auction.

Then Mr. Subrahmanya Pillai remarked—

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : He has to answer the other points raised by me especially about the additional facilities for Puliyannur and the alternative suggestion that the Range Office Clerk would serve the purpose.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Sir, it was brought to the notice of the Government by means of representations in the Assembly that the people of Minachil were put to great difficulties in buying timber for want of a depot. I believe the subject was raised in the last Assembly also. It was stated that the people of the locality had at present to go to depots located far away and that a depot in the neighbourhood would be beneficial. Now, the policy of the Department has been to open depots wherever possible so long as there was demand for timber. We have been following this policy steadily, and it was in accordance with this policy that we promised to open a depot at Puliyannur. We want a Forester to be in charge of the Depot.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : What about the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for the Mekkara road ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : With regard to that road, Sir, we have not so far incurred any expenditure. The original idea was that the Devaswom Department should pay one-third of the cost, the Forest Department one-third and the contractor concerned the remaining one-third. The Maramat Department estimated the cost of the road at Rs. 50,000. It is for expenses in connection with that road that I had asked for a provision of Rs. 20,000 ; but the Government, for obvious reasons, had reduced it to Rs. 15,000.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : And so the original understanding with the contractor remains ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : It remains to be seen whether the contractor is in a position to pay the amount.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Without ascertaining whether the contractor is in a position to pay the amount or not, I fail to see why this additional allotment is provided in the Budget ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : To make the contribution of the Forest Department agreed upon originally. If the contractor does not pay the share due from him, he will have to forego the amount. That is a matter to be decided later on. But the Forest Department must be ready with the amount due from it, and therefore it is that provision is made in the budget for the amount.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : Is it not for a complete road that the amount is to be paid ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Yes.

Then Mr. Sundaram Pillai referred to certain hardships experienced by the Nanjanad cultivators.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : I wish to ask one question of the Conservator. May I ask him who spent the money on behalf of the Forest Department for the construction of the road ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : The contractor has been spending the money from his own pocket.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : At the instance of the Government he has been spending money from his own pocket ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Yes, in a way.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Every contractor spends money from his own pocket in the first instance and then the amount is reimbursed to him.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Mr. Sundaram Pillai has been referring to the difficulties experienced by the Nanjinad people in getting green-leaf manure. Green-leaf manure is allowed to be collected free from the Veerapoli and Poigmala reserves, and it is only when green leaf is collected in cart-loads that they are asked to pay a fee of 4 as. It is only a paltry sum, and I am not aware of any hardship on account of the levy of this fee.

MR. N A. SUNDARAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is the Conservator aware that for getting a cart-load of green-leaf manure, the people have to spend about Rs. 1/8 for payment to the subordinates of his Department?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : This is the first time I hear such a complaint. Only about a fortnight ago I was at Aramboly, and no complaint was made to me then. People are allowed to carry green-leaf manure on their heads ; this fee of 4 as. is levied only when green-leaf manure is carried in cart loads.

MR. N. A. SUNDARAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : If the member had only mingled with the ryots, he would have heard of this complaint.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : As I said it was only about a fortnight ago that I was at Aramboly and many people of Aramboly came to me including the Assembly member. I did not hear from them anything of this complaint.

MR. N. A. SUNDARAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : At any rate you have no objection to make an enquiry the next time you go to Nanjinad ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Absolutely no objection. I only say that if there had been any real complaint that would have been brought to my notice when I was there.

With regard to agricultural implements—

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*) : It is absolutely impossible to take any part in the discussion. I do not hear the Conservator of Forests. Will you kindly ask him, Sir, to speak a little louder ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : With regard to agricultural implements, it might have been the practice in time immemorial for the people to go into the forests unchecked and cu

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[Mr. R. Danukoti Pillai.]

down whatever timber they liked. That cannot be thought of in these days when the forests are under the control of a well-organised department. It is not possible for the department to allow the people to go wherever they like into the forests and to cut the timber they want. We have therefore made provision for the stocking of timber required for agricultural implements at central places for sale to *bona fide* ryots. If people would only take advantage of this provision a great deal of the so-called hardship would be removed.

With regard to cattle-grazing, Travancore cattle are allowed to graze anywhere except in the plantations which are closed only by special order. That is under the Rules of 1907.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*) : May I ask the member to speak a little louder ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I am talking as loudly as I possibly can. If the member cannot hear me, I can only request the member to come a little nearer.

Every one has been complaining here that cattle are not allowed to graze free in our forests. They are allowed to graze free all over Reserves except in the plantations. I do not know why the same cry is being repeated every year, and that too by responsible men, in the council and in the Assembly, even after I have told them that Travancore cattle *are* allowed to graze free. I say once for all that in all Reserves throughout the State free grazing is allowed to Travancore cattle.

MR. N. A. SUNDARAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I correct the member. When I referred to that statement, I referred to cattle and sheep imported from outside the State ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Surely, we cannot allow cattle from British India to graze free in our forests, especially when the British Government are imposing a fee for the grazing of cattle in their forests. We cannot be so charitable as to allow foreign cattle to graze freely in our forests.

MR. N. A. SUNDARAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is the Conservator aware that a fee is levied upon the cattle and sheep imported from British India?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Yes, if they want their cattle to graze in our forests they must pay.

MR. N. A. SUNDARAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : What I want to ask the member is whether he would abolish the fee now imposed upon the grazing of foreign cattle in our forests ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : If I am to speak for myself, I will be the last man to recommend the abolition of the fees on foreign cattle.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I know from the member whether there is enough fodder for the cattle in Travancore ?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) I do not think. With regard to firewood, firewood can be collected from the forests —dead and dry firewood—in head-loads, and there is no restriction to the same. All the same, the complaint is made in season and out of season that people are not allowed to collect firewood from our forests. The so-called *odika nboo* can be collected, and that *is being* done. I do not know whether there is any real basis for this complaint.

MR. N. A. SUNDARAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : The council must be provided with a loudspeaker, or the member may be asked to come a little nearer. I cannot hear him at all.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : There seems to be a general complaint about the accoustic defects of this hall.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : With regard to the collection of firewood, the existing practice is that the people can collect the so-called *odikamboo* from anywhere and everywhere but only in head-loads.

MR. N. A. SUNDARAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Does the member mean to suggest that the *odikamboo* cannot be carried in shoulders?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Shoulder or head, it is immaterial. But they are not allowed to use implements for cutting. They can only go into the forests and collect dead and dry fuel for firewood.

MR. N. A. SUNDARAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is the member aware that many people have been prosecuted by the Range Officer at Aramboly for collecting fuel?

MR. R.DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I am not aware. Probably they must have carried them in carts.

With regard to royalties, there is a report on the subject pending the consideration of Government. There has been some correspondence between me and Government. They have referred to me the question whether certain taluks could be eliminated from the same, and we have called for a report from the Division Officers ; so that the members may be able to gather that the report is not really shelved.

Then Mr. Karayalar referred to the freight on timber. It is a very big question. In fact that is a hardship which we ourselves feel. Our timber was going beyond Trichinopoly when there was no freight concession allowed to the Calicut people. Now the Calicut people are allowed the concession while we are denied the same, with the result that the Calicut timber goes as far as Trichinopoly and our timber does not go beyond Madura. But I may assure the members, that the Department has not been sleeping over the matter. We have brought this fact to the notice of the Government and the matter is under their consideration. I do not know what orders have been passed on it.

Then Mr. Karayalar said that the rainfall has been affected by the exploitation of a portion of the Puliyara Reserve. That is a moot question about which nothing definite can be said. In 1099 when there was so much flood, I remember my friend Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman

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saying that it was due to reservation policy of the Department; but now Mr. Karayalar says that on account of working of the coupes the rainfall is affected.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*): I only suggested that.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Rainfall is affected by some other causes.

Mr. Kunjitomman spoke about disafforestation of forests. As a matter of fact, we have been doing everything possible and I do not know why the same thing is being repeated over and over again.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): പൂയംകുട്ടിമുളക്ക് പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): പതിച്ചു വാങ്ങിക്കാൻ ആളില്ലാതിരിക്കുകയാണു്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): സ്ഥലം സർവെചെയ്തു ലേലം ചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ഉദ്ദ്യമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അതിനെപ്പറ്റി റവന്യുകമ്മീഷണരോടു ചോദിക്കണം. അതിനെ ലേലംചെയ്തതായിട്ടാണു് എന്റെ ഓർമ്മ.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): പിന്നെ എങ്ങനെയാണു ലേലത്തിൽപിടിക്കാൻ ആളുകളില്ലായിരുന്നു എന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചതു്?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ലേലത്തിൽ പിടിക്കാൻ ആളുണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അതു മുഴുവനും ഇതിനുമുമ്പുതന്നെ വിറ്റുപോകുമായിരുന്നു.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകാർ അവരുടെ ജോലിതീർത്തു. റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് അതു വാങ്ങിക്കാൻ ആളില്ലെന്നു വേണം വിചാരിക്കാൻ.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): കുട്ടപ്പുഴ എന്ന സ്ഥലം ലേലം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു് ആളുകളെ ക്ഷണിച്ചതുപോലെ പൂയംകുടി എന്ന സ്ഥലം ലേലം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും ആളുകളെ ക്ഷണിച്ചു നോക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): പൂയംകുടി ലേലംചെയ്തു നോക്കിയതായിട്ടാണു് അറിവു്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*): കുട്ടമ്പുഴ എന്നസ്ഥലത്തു ൩൦൦൦ ഏക്കർ ഒഴിച്ചിട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ഒഴിച്ചിട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Commerce and Industry, North*) ഒരിക്കലും ഇല്ല. റിസർവ് അല്ലാത്ത സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ കൂടി റിസർവ ആക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കയല്ലാതെ ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരിക്കലും ഒഴിച്ചിട്ടിട്ടില്ല.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. E V. Krishna Pillai, do you press your motion?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Yes, Sir.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

Motions 299 to 303.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. K. KRISHNAN NAYAR :

299. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,39,096 by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

300. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 8,39,096 by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :

301. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 8,39,096 by Re. 1.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED :

302. To reduce the Total allotment of Rs. 8,39,096 by Rs. 10.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

303. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 8,39,096 by Rs. 100.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: May I take it that the House allows Rs. 8,39,096 minus Re. 1 under Demand VII—Forest?

The grant was made.

DEMAND No. VIII—STAMPS.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 93,412 under Demand VIII—Stamps.

Motion 304.

The following motion was not moved :

MR. P. S. MAHOMED :

To reduce the total allotment of Rs 93,412 under Demand VIII by Rs. 10.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: May I take it that the House allows Rs. 93,412 under Demand VIII—Stamps?

The grant was made.

DEMAND IX—REGISTRATION.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 3,10,738, under Demand IX—Registration.

Motion 305.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion :

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,246 for Direction by Rs. 10.

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